

## CRUISE ANNOUNCEMENT

- VESSEL:** NOAA Vessel *David Starr Jordan*
- CRUISE DATES:** June 16 - July 7, 2004.
- PROJECT:** Shark abundance survey: Fisheries Resources Division
- ITINERARY:** Leg I: Depart San Diego, California at 0800 on June 16, 2004 and proceed to predetermined sampling grounds off southern California. One to three longline operations will be conducted daily to survey primary and alternate longline sites for mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*). The ship will return to MARFAC after operations on the evening of June 25 to exchange scientific crew.
- Leg II: Depart San Diego June 26 at 0800 and reoccupy the primary longline sampling sites. Once the primary longline sites have been occupied, sets will be performed at alternate sampling sites. The ship will return to MARFAC in the afternoon on July 7, 2004.
- OBJECTIVES:** 1) Conduct the juvenile shark abundance survey, occupying each of the standard 7 stations twice and the alternate stations as time permits. 2) Tag and release healthy sharks with conventional tags, OTC, and satellite archival tags for age and growth validation and environmental dynamics information. 3) Collect biological samples including reproductive, muscle and heart tissue, stomach contents and whole specimens. 4) Record species captured and size to determine distribution by size and area.
- PROCEDURES:** Legs I and II: Longline sampling operations will begin when the ship reaches the first fishing station approximately 32.38 N 117.27 W. At each shark longline sampling site, two regularly scheduled fishing sets will be conducted during day light hours (see station locations on attached map). The shark longline consists of approximately 200 hooks and gangions attached to a stainless steel main line wire two miles in length. Each hook will be baited with mackerel. The soak time for each set will last approximately 4 hours. Occasional fishing/sampling sets will be conducted with a 1-mile monofilament line to sample common thresher sharks. Sharks will be tagged with conventional spaghetti tags, satellite transmitting tags and tetracycline. National Geographic photographer will be documenting the capture and tagging operations on deck and underwater.
- EQUIPMENT:** 1. Supplied by scientific party:
- Standard stainless steel, commercial longline gear 2 miles in length, leaders and hooks.
  - 70 cases frozen bait (freezer space required)
  - Sampling and tagging supplies
  - Shark tagging platform
  - 400 gallon transport tank
  - Bait tank
  - Temperature and depth recorders

Photographic and video equipment

2. Supplied by R/V *David Starr Jordan*

- Trawl drum, longline fair-lead, necessary blocks and capstan for deploying and retrieving longline
- Freezer space for 70 cases of bait
- Work boat as needed

